

**MECAC APRIL 4, 2007
QUALITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chris Hettinger, Doris Running Crane, Marla _____, Shelly Fisher, Pam Smith, Libby Hancock, Ann Klaas, Sandra Morris, Lisa Murphy, Shelly Meyer, Becky Fleming-Siebenaler, Jeanne Christopher, Joelfre' Grant, Kelly Rosenleaf

Kelly Rosenleaf will continue as chair for the remainder of the year.

Touchpoints:

Joelfre' Grant and Jeanne Christopher were asked to talk to the Quality Committee to provide additional information about Touchpoints in their community. This discussion was in follow up to the previous Quality Committee conference call as a request for more information.

The program began with one time funding through tribal Early Head Start as a way to improve quality care/mental health for infants and toddlers about 4-6 years ago. The team went to Boston for training relating the Touchpoints philosophy through a mentoring model. The Blackfeet and Rocky Boy programs also have been trained in the Touchpoints model. Sustainability must be built in and can be a challenge that should be addressed early.

The team believes that Touchpoints becomes a part of who you are – a way of life that is built on finding strengths. They have found this approach key to building parent-provider relationships. The Touchpoints philosophy is based upon Dr. Brazelton's many years of practice as a pediatrician. They worked hard to ensure this is a process not a "one shot deal". Part of their sustainability over the past 1 ½ year has been the Infant Toddler Mentor grant funded through the ECSB. Touchpoints is a philosophy you maintain in your life.

The primary premise is based in anticipatory guidance and works with parents by joining with them where they are rather trying to be above them. There are 8 guiding principles and the principles are strategies versus a "good idea". The principles are based on assumptions that parents are the experts with their own children and is a shift from a deficit model to a positive model with a collaborative approach. Discipline boundaries must be willing to go beyond traditional roles; everyone brings something to the table. The approach is about working with the family around the child.

Questions & Discussion:

How can we get more people trained in Montana?

- Discussion was about having 2 more sites initially, then maybe be able to add more. It is very intensive and expensive. Each team should have about 5 people and it is about \$25,000 for the team to attend. The whole process can be about \$55,000 which includes all materials, monthly TA in the first year, additional training, and attendance at the annual conference in the first year. (these costs do not include travel)
- 2 mentor programs could be set up as pilot sites using the reserved Specialized Training grant funds. Maybe one infant toddler mentor project and one serving 3-5. Could use SPTG funds to support the pilot piece. Would there be a separate part RFP or would it be a part of the Mentor RFP?
- A subcommittee formed for ore follow up: Shelly Meyer, Shelly Fisher, Ann Klaas, Jeanne Christopher, Cindy O'Dell, Mary Jane Standaert, Linda Kjorstad, Lisa Murphy.
- Lisa will schedule a conference call for the subcommittee

Option 1 date: June 5, 2007 at 1:00 PM

Option 2 date: June 14, 2007 at 10:00 AM

*** *Sub-committee members* – please let Lisa know which date would work best for you.**

Higher Ed Merit Pay: Committee had previously requested that Lisa investigate Child Care Policy and ARM relating to accessing Higher Education Merit Pay for credit bearing classes for Infant and Toddler courses. There is nothing in either that precludes doing this so the committee advises allowing this for the FY2008 Merit Pay.

Distance Learning Training Issue: Kelly reported